**C:\Documents and Settings\jschultz\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NFMB0X0U\j0199709[1].wmfSummer Word Power**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for letting me work with your child in speech and language therapy this year. Each summer, I ask parents and students to continue to work on their communication skills just a bit while we are on break. One area that your child has been working on this school year is vocabulary. The ability to understand vocabulary words is necessary for a child to comprehend both what he/she hears and what he/she reads. Having a good expressive vocabulary is necessary for a child to be able to express himself/herself in a way that is easily understood by his/her teachers and peers.

I have attached a list of vocabulary words for your student’s upcoming grade level. These are words that appear in reading and text books at that grade level. By discussing and reviewing these words during the summer months, you can assist your child to better understand the reading materials that he/she will encounter next year and to participate more in classroom discussions about these materials.

Here are some suggestions for using the attached vocabulary list:

* Choose a word for the day, read the word to your child or have him/her read it from the list. Discuss with your child what the word means and how you might use it. Try to use words that your child understands and talk about situations that your child is familiar with, then ask your child to do some of the following with the word:
  + Make up a sentence that has the word in it.
  + Tell what the word means, or define it. If you need help telling the meaning of a word, a good free dictionary website is <http://nhd.heinle.com/home.aspx> .
  + Tell 2 examples for the word. For example, if the word you are discussing is “cancel,” an example might be a baseball game on a rainy day or school during a snow storm.
  + Tell 2 nonexamples (things that wouldn’t be described by this word or don’t go with it) for the word. For example, if the word you are discussing is “empty,” a nonexample of empty might be an unopened can of vegetables or a trash can that needs to be dumped.
* Try to use the new words as often as possible during the day in many different situations to help make the meaning of the words clear.
* Review the some of the words together from time to time. Choose 2 words that you have practiced earlier in the summer. Say both words to your child and ask him/her which one means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your assistance with your child’s language therapy program. Have a great summer!

Mrs. Jennifer Schultz

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